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General

Costa Rica is located in Central America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, between Nicaragua and Panama.

The climate is tropical, having its dry season from December to April, and its rainy season from May to November.

The terrain is primarily coastal plains separated by rugged mountains.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Costa Rican colon, consisting of 100 centimos.

Government

Costa Rica is a democratic republic comprised of seven provinces. The capital is San Jose.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; May 1, Labor Day; Mother's Day; September 15, Independence Day; Race Day; and December 25, Christmas Day.

Industries

The main industries are food processing, textiles and clothing, construction materials, fertilizer, and plastic products.

Tourism and the export of bananas, coffee, and other agricultural products important to the economy.

Languages

Spanish is the official language. English is spoken in the area of Puerto Limon.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is SIERRA (+6).

U.S. Embassy

The embassy is situated on Pavas Road, San Jose. The mailing address is APO AA 34020.